40
~~51.~~ The method according to claim 50, wherein said ligand which is the CCR5 chemokine is labeled.

41
~~52.~~ The method of claim 39, further comprising measuring the infectivity of the cell by HIV, and wherein a compound is selected which decreases infectivity by HIV by at least two-fold.

42
~~53.~~ The method according to claim 52, wherein said decrease in HIV infectivity is measured measuring the production of an HIV protein.

43
~~54.~~ The method according to claim 53, wherein said HIV protein is p24.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 39 to 54 are pending. No new matter is introduced by this amendment. Support for the newly added claims may be found in the specification as originally filed and at least at pages 3-8, pages 22-28, Figure 6a and b, and Figure 10.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all claims are allowable as written and respectfully requests early favorable action by the Examiner. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 24, 2001

Kathleen M. Williams
Registration No. 34,380
PALMER AND DODGE, LLP
One Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 573-0451

~~VANMA51,001C1~~ PATENT

~~ACTIVE AND INACTIVE CC CHEMOKINE RECEPTOR AND NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING SAID RECEPTOR~~

METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING COMPOUNDS WHICH BIND THE ACTIVE CCR5 CHEMOKINE RECEPTOR-

~~BACKGROUND~~

~~This is a continuation application under 37 CFR 1.53 OF U.S. Patent Application No. 08/810,028 filed March 3, 1997.~~

RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/626,939, filed July 27, 2000, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/833,752, filed April 9, 1997, which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) to EP 96870021.1, filed March 1, 1996, and EP 96870102.9, filed August 6, 1996.

Field of the Invention

The present invention concerns new peptides and the nucleic acid molecules encoding said peptides, the vector comprising said nucleic acid molecules, the cells transformed by said vector, inhibitors directed against said peptides or said nucleic acid molecules, a pharmaceutical composition and a diagnostic and/or dosage device comprising said products, and non human transgenic animals expressing the peptides according to the invention or the nucleic acid molecules encoding said peptides.

The invention further provides a method for determining ligand binding, detecting expression, screening for drugs binding specifically to said peptides and treatments involving the peptides or the nucleic acid molecules according to the invention.

Technological Background of the Art

Chemotactic cytokines, or chemokines, are small signalling proteins that can be divided in two subfamilies (CC- and CXC-chemokines) depending on the relative position of the first two conserved cysteines. Interleukin 8 (IL-8) is the most studied of these proteins, but a large number of chemokines (Regulated on Activation Normal T-cell Expressed and Secreted